

NEWS.

PROFESSOR W. W. BAILEY, after twenty-one years of continuous service at Brown University, has been granted leave of absence for the first term of 1898-9.

ILLUSTRATIONS of the inflorescence and dissections of *Welwitschia* (Tumboa), made from a plant growing at Kew, are published in the *Gardener's Chronicle* (III. 24:62-63. 1898).

THE DIVISION OF BOTANY of the Department of Agriculture has issued a bulletin (no. 20), prepared by V. K. Chestnut, which describes and illustrates the principal poisonous plants of the United States.

MR. JOHN W. HARSHBERGER has published his lecture upon the uses of plants among the ancient Peruvians. Among the prehistoric remains are found the maize, peanut, potato, sweet potato, and coca.

THE LAST FOUR NUMBERS (171-174) of Engler and Prantl's *Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien* contain a continuation of the Umbelliferae, by Drude; a continuation of the Hymenomycetinae, by Hennings; and the beginning of the Pteridophyta, by Sadebeck.

THE BERLIN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE has made the following grants for botanical work: 2000 marks to Professor Engler for the continuation of his work on East African plants; 600 marks to Professor Graebner, for the continuation of his work on German heaths; 500 marks to Dr. Loesner, for the completion of his monograph of the Aquifoliaceae.

DURING THE LAST COLLEGE YEAR the following botanists have passed their doctorate examinations at the University of Chicago: W. L. Bray, thesis "The xerophytic flora of Texas;" Otis W. Caldwell, thesis "Morphology of *Lemna minor*, with ecological notes;" Henry C. Cowles, thesis "The ecological relations of the sand dune flora of northern Indiana;" W. D. Merrell, thesis "Contribution to the life history of *Silphium*."